# Alberta Finance
# Economic Bulletin

## Economic Statistics Released During the Week of March 10, 2003 to March 14, 2003

| | Reference Period | Month/Previous Month (m/m) | Month/Previous Year's Month (y/y) | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Housing Starts (Thousands) | February | | | Canadian housing starts were at 246,400 in February, up 34.5% from January. Five provinces experienced monthly increases, led by Ontario (+72.4%), Nova Scotia (+71.4%) and Newfoundland (+40.0%). The largest monthly declines were recorded in Saskatchewan (-28.6%), Prince Edward Island (-12.5%) and Manitoba (-12.2%). |
| Alberta | 41,400 | 24.0% | 12.8% | |
| Canada | 246,400 | 34.5% | 28.1% | |
| New Housing Price Index (1992=100) | January | | | In January, new house prices in Canada were up 5.1% from the same period last year. All 21 of the regions surveyed experienced yearly increases. The largest yearly gains were reported in Montreal (+9.3%), Edmonton (+9.2%), Quebec (+8.5%) and Hamilton (+7.1%). |
| Canada | 113.1 | 0.3% | 5.1% | |
| Edmonton | 126.9 | 0.4% | 9.2% | |
| Calgary | 146.5 | 0.2% | 5.9% | |
| New Motor Vehicle Sales | January | | | New motor vehicle sales in Canada numbered 129,036 in January, down 14.1% from the previous month. New passenger car sales declined by 11.3% from December, while truck sales fell by 17.3%. All provinces experienced monthly declines, with the largest drops in total sales occurring in Newfoundland (-39.7%), Prince Edward Island (-22.1%) and New Brunswick (-21.9%). |
| Alberta | 15,557 | -9.5% | -11.0% | |
| Canada | 129,036 | -14.1% | -11.8% | |
| Canadian International Merchandise Trade ($ millions) | January | | | Canada's overall trade surplus rose by $842 million in January, to $4.9 billion. Exports were up by 1.3% from the previous month, while imports declined by 1.3%. The largest surpluses were found in energy ($4.0 billion) and forestry products ($2.6 billion). On a yearly basis, total exports were up by 6.3% while imports increased by 8.0%. |
| Exports | 34,967 | 1.3% | 6.3% | |
| Imports | 30,045 | -1.3% | 8.0% | |